

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, CG, BE

SUBJECT: MEETING OF BELGIAN MINISTERS WITH MOBUTU

REF: BRUSSELS 780

1. OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER HAS ISSUED COMMUNIQUE
ON MEETING OF PRIME MINISTER LEBURTON AND FOREIGN MINISTER
VAN ELSLANDE WITH ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT MOBUTU IN MUNICH
FEBRUARY 6. ACCORDING TO COMMUNIQUE, MEETING WAS
FOLLOW-UP TO ECONOMIC MEASURES ANNOUNCED IN ZAIRE
NOVEMBER 30 AND LEBURTON LETTER TO MOBUTU ON JANUARY 2.
CONSULTATIONS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH MEETINGS AT
MINISTERIAL LEVEL BEGINNING IN MARCH. MINISTERS AND
MOBUTU DISCUSSED WIDE RANGE OF PROBLEMS RELATED TO MEASURES
OF ZAIRIZATION. IT WAS REAFFIRMED THAT MEASURES WOULD
NOT HINDER LEGITIMATE FREE CIRCULATION OF PERSONS.
PRINCIPLE OF RIGHT TO INDEMNIFICATION ALSO WAS FORMALLY
RECOGNIZED. METHODS OF IMPLEMENTATION ARE BEING STUDIED
AND CONTACTS BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL BE MAINTAINED
TO ENSURE BEST IMPLEMENTATION. REGARDING COOPERATION,
COMMUNIQUE SAYS THAT GOB REAFFIRMED ITS WILLINGNESS TO
CONTINUE TO PURSUE PROGRAMS UNDER WAY AND TO ASSURE
THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH METHODS ACCEPTABLE
TO BOTH STATES. ON PROBLEM OF COPPER, MINISTERS NOTED
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THAT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOZ AND SGM ARE MOVING TOWARD

ACCORD SATISFACTORY TO BOTH SIDES.

2. IN REPORTING COMMUNIQUE, BRUSSELS DAILY "LE SOIR" SAYS THAT MUNICH MEETING CONSISTED OF TWO-HOUR WORKING SESSION FOLLOWED BY LUNCH HOSTED BY MOBUTU. PAPER COMMENTS THAT OBJECTIVE OF LEBURTON CONCERNING ZAIRIZATION OF ENTERPRISES AND INDEMNIFICATION WAS TO *GREE ON FIXED PROCEDURE, WHILE INTENTION OF ZAIRIAN AUTHORITIES SEEMS TO BE FIRST TO CLARIFY PROBLEM AS WHOLE DURING COMING YEAR THAN PROCEED CASE BY CASE. "LE SOIR" ADDS THAT INTERVENTION OF LEBURTON PERMITTED IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN ZAIRIAN AUTHORITIES AND BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY BUT THAT CONVERSATIONS CAN CONTINUE ONLY AFTER RETURN OF MOBUTU FROM HIS VISITS TO ARAB COUNTRIES AND IRAN.

3. "LE SOIR" ALSO QUOTES "LETTRE D'AFRIQUE" AS REPORTING THAT IN " IMPORTANT NEGOTIATIONS" IN WEST GERMANY CONCERNING "FUTURE OF GECAMINES", GOZ TOOK POSITION THAT COMPENSATION GRANTED TO UNION MINIERE THROUGH GECAMINES IS EXCESSIVE. "LETTRE D'AFRIQUE" REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT "IMPORTANT DECISION" MIGHT BE TAKEN SOON BY KINSHASA SINCE LIBYAN LEADER CADHAFI MAY HAVE INFORMED MOBUTU THAT HE WOULD COVER RISKS OF "TOTAL NATIONALIZATION" OF COPPER AND PROVIDE UP TO 500 MILLION DOLLARS TO FINANCE MODERNIZATION OF ZAIRIAN COPPER PRODUCTION.
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